

and managing volunteers. They help ensure the volunteer's time is used effectively to provide the maximum benefit to the organization and the people it serves.

I still remember how I felt as a 14-year-old watching the 1960 Presidential election between Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator John Kennedy. I felt energized listening to Senator Kennedy when he spoke of the Peace Corps and making the world a better and safer place. I wanted to be part of his vision. I wanted to give to the world community. Years later that dream was fulfilled when my wife, Betsi, and I served 2 years in the Peace Corps. The same powerful emotions, the same sense of energy and eagerness we felt in the 1960s is alive today and expressed by those who give back to their communities.

Today is a day to recognize the millions of Americans who volunteer and express our sincere gratitude for their service.

I thank my colleague CAROL SHEA-PORTER, for introducing this resolution.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. I now yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

□ 1515

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, before I say anything else, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies and prayers to the families and friends of the victims of yesterday's tragedy, and to the entire Virginia Tech community.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 293 which recognizes the diligent efforts of federally funded and volunteer programs, and generally observes the role of volunteers in the life of our country. When somebody volunteers to perform a service, it is not only a service for other people, it is a service for them as well.

Now more than ever, Americans need a restored sense of greatness and purpose. On the release of the Corporation for National and Community Service's report on volunteering in America, CEO David Eisner's remarks poignantly address the importance of community and national service. He said, "Service and volunteering aren't just nice things to do, but are necessary parts of how our Nation deals with its challenges."

In the wake of tragedies such as Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of thousands of lives have been changed for the better because of the dedication and hard work of volunteers all across the country. But it is not enough. We can do much more. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, while there has been a significant increase in the number of volunteers nationwide, one in three Americans dropped out of volunteering between 2005 and 2006. Volunteer programs need more than just willing and able volunteers, they need national support.

By reinvigorating national and community service programs, and honoring

our volunteers, we feed our democratic spirit and cultivate citizenship. Being engaged in democracy through service, we bolster the best of what citizenship is about. The result will be more vibrant communities and a stronger America, cultivated through experiences that all people share regardless of their background. No young American should be deprived of these opportunities due to a lack of commitment from Washington.

I ask for your support of H. Res. 293.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of H. Res. 293, and thank Ms. SHEA-PORTER for her introduction of this resolution, and hope that all of our fellow Americans will experience and celebrate the spirit of volunteerism throughout our country.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 293 honoring volunteer service and thank Representative SHEA-PORTER for introducing this bill. As Chairwoman of the Healthy Families and Communities Subcommittee, I wanted to highlight this extremely important issue which is why the first hearing the HFC Subcommittee held was on national service. This is a bipartisan issue, and I am looking forward to working with Ranking Member PLATTS to move ahead on reauthorizing the service bill.

National service has a distinguished and strong history in our Nation. Our roots in service extend back to the first pioneers, when colonists had to band together to overcome the challenges of surviving and adjusting to a new land.

Evidence shows that service and volunteering lowers dropout rates among teens, lowers crime rates in communities with high rates of volunteerism, lowers costs associated with the aging population and improves the health and lowers the rates of depression among the elderly. Volunteering is a cost effective way of meeting our Nation's social needs both from the standpoint of the volunteers and the people who benefit from the services.

In my home state of New York, more than 76,000 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs and strengthen communities. There are 239 national service programs in New York alone. In my district we have more than 1,300 service volunteers, and we have almost 3,000 students age K-12 that participate in the Learn and Serve programs.

I truly believe that expanding national service, particularly to disadvantaged youth, is an effective way to combat things like youth gangs and violence, and the evidence bears that out. And it is critical that we begin teaching about participation and service at an early age.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman SHEA-PORTER for her hard work to in introducing this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 293, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 293.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

TREATING CERTAIN COMMUNITIES AS METROPOLITAN CITIES FOR PURPOSES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1515) to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to treat certain communities as metropolitan cities for purposes of the community development block grant program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1515

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. METROPOLITAN CITIES.

Paragraph (4) of section 102(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, with respect to any fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this sentence, the cities of Alton and Granite City, Illinois, shall be considered metropolitan cities for purposes of this title."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill that passed our committee unanimously. It addresses a series of glitches which have resulted in the communities of Alton and Granite City, Illinois, losing their status as entitlement communities under the community development block grant program.

These are both cities that have done a very good job of using these funds. There is no reason why they should not continue to be allowed to enjoy this. The events which led to this having happened are complicated, and even more relevant, quite boring, so it does not seem to me that the House would much care about them.

The relevant point is that there is a unanimous view on the part of our committee, and this has been urged on us by the gentlemen from Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. COSTELLO, that we